

II. REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the telephone interviews conducted between Applicants' representative, Wesley Ashton, and Examiner Washburn (571-272-5551) on July 30th and 31st, and August 2nd, 2007. During these interviews, Examiner Washburn informed Applicants' representative that claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-23 are allowable over the art of record. However, Examiner Washburn objected to independent claims 1, 8, 12 and 14 as duplicative of independent claims 10, 11, 13 and 15, respectively. Examiner Washburn also requested changes in the preamble of claims 8, 11, 14 and 15 for reasons not related to patentability.

By the present amendment, claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15 have been amended. More specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended for a reason not related to patentability in order to incorporate the subject matter of previous claim 3. Therefore, independent claim 1 now has the same scope as previous claim 3. Claims 8, 12 and 14 have also been amended, for a reason not related to patentability, to incorporate subject matter supported by original claim 3. In view of the present amendment, claims 1, 8, 12 and 14 plainly have a different scope from independent claims 10, 11, 13 and 15, respectively, and are, therefore, not duplicative.

Independent claims 8, 11, 14 and 15 have been amended to recite a "computer readable medium encoded with a program" as supported by previous claims 8, 11, 14 and 15, and by page 2, lines 10-15, of Applicants' specification as originally filed. The present amendment of the preamble of claims 8, 11, 14 and 15 is merely cosmetic, and is not made for a reason related to patentability. Thus, the present amendment of the preamble of claims 8, 11, 14 and 15 has no further limiting effect on the scope of these claims.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the above-captioned application.


III. CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, claims 1, 4 and 6-23 are in condition for allowance and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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